

Top Secret



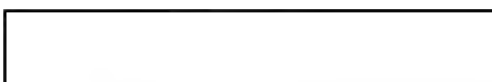
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NOTES

THE NETHERLANDS: Prime Minister Biesheuvel's four-party government retained enough seats in yesterday's national election to have a chance of remaining in power. The fate of the center-right coalition depends largely on whether the Catholic People's Party, which suffered the greatest losses, chooses to go into opposition. Coalition leaders probably hope that, if they can regain the support of a small, fifth party, Catholic leaders can be persuaded to remain with the coalition, which would then have a bare parliamentary majority. The leftist parties scored gains but, without the tacit support of the Catholic Party, would not have enough to form a viable minority government. Negotiation between the parties to form a government, in any case, will likely be a lengthy process. [REDACTED]

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